



# ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE CORRECTIONS

## R & D NEWS

### ADJC RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Janet Napolitano, Governor

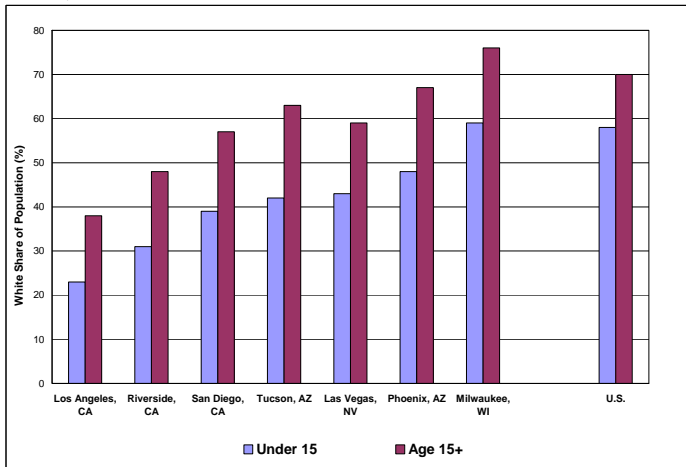
Michael D. Branham, Director □ Dianne Gadow, Deputy Director

Volume VII, Number 2

March - April 2006

Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections \* 1624 West Adams \* Phoenix, Arizona 85007 \* 602-542-2053

**Figure 1: "Racial Generation Gap" of Selected Metropolitan Areas, 2004**



## CURRENT ADJC RESEARCH

### Kim de Beus and John Vivian, (2006), Staff Opinions of ADJC's Current Risk Instrument.

R&D surveyed five "scorers" working in our reception and classification (RAC) area who prepare the current risk instrument and 27 potential "users" of the resultant risk score. Scorers receive and complete risk instrument training more consistently than users, and risk scores are underutilized. We also learned that users believe the current risk instrument results are not credible. Research on the topic of what works to reduce juvenile delinquency in correctional settings has found that it is best to provide intensive treatment to high risk offenders and to be cautious with the amount of treatment provided to low risk offenders. Thus, the calculation of risk to re-offend becomes a useful guide for treatment and placement. R&D has partnered with an experienced consultant to create a new risk to re-offend instrument.

### Stella Vasquez, (2006) Assault Comparison Report.

At the request of Director Branham, Ms. Vasquez compared ADJC Safe School assaults in January and February of 2006 to the same time period in 2005. Stella found a 12% decrease had occurred. Most (88%) of the decrease was due to fewer juvenile assaults on staff. Over two thirds (69%) of the assaults in 2006 involved juveniles assaulting juveniles, while almost a third (31%) involving juveniles assaulting staff. Most (56%) assaults occurred during the swing shift. In fact, over three-quarters (79%) of the Black Canyon School assaults occurred then. Tuesday (21%) was the most likely day for an assault to occur. Despite the overall decrease, the Black Canyon School had a 38% increase in assaults. Most (78%) of their increase was due to more juvenile assaults on staff. The Eagle Point School (69) had the most assaults in January/February of 2005 and Adobe Mountain School (50) had the most during January/February of 2006.

### Kim de Beus, (2006) Bi-Monthly ADJC Admission Summary

During the first three months of 2006, ADJC averaged 52 new commitments per month. A total of 84% of the new commitments were male and 16% were female. Since the start of 2006, the number of male commitments has been decreasing while the number of female commitments has been increasing. ADJC typically receives more commitments in April than in other months.

### JUVENILE JUSTICE TRIVIA

How many ADJC juveniles want to obtain a college education?

## JUVENILE JUSTICE LITERATURE REVIEW

**Johnna Christian, (2005), *Riding the Bus, Barriers to Prison Visitation and Family Management Strategies*, *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*.**

Christian examined the experiences of families who visited inmates incarcerated in New York. She interviewed family members during bus rides to two upstate New York prisons. Christian found that the “the journey to a visit is extremely tiring and time consuming. A prominent feeling among families is that visiting provides them a means of monitoring the prison system. They believe that when a prisoner does not receive visits, it is a sign that no one cares about him, which gives prison personnel free license to treat him however they wish.” Christian found that there were cycles to when families visited the prisons, and that family visits “may have nothing to do with a desire to maintain connections with the inmate but rather the difficulties of getting to the visit...” Previous research found that more than half of inmates never received in-person visits from family members. She found five factors affected visitation: 1) the prisoner’s relationship with the family prior to the incarceration; 2) the prisoner’s efforts to improve or rehabilitate himself while incarcerated; 3) the strain the incarceration has placed on the family; 4) the economic resources available to the family to maintain the prisoner; and 5) the family’s social support system.

**William Frey, (2006), *Diversity Spreads Out: Metropolitan Shifts in Hispanic, Asian, and Black Populations Since 2000*, The Brookings Institution, *Living Cities Census Series*.**

Frey analyzed Census Bureau population estimates detailing the distribution of racial and ethnic groups in Phoenix, Tucson and 359 other metropolitan areas. He found that in many of our metropolitan areas, our nation’s juvenile population (15 or younger) is more racially diverse than the adult population. In addition, he found that Hispanic and Asian populations are spreading out from their traditional metropolitan centers, while Blacks are moving to the south. Almost one third (31%) of the metropolitan areas had declines in White population from 2000 to 2004, driven in part

by lower White fertility rates. He found that only one-third of the recent growth in Phoenix can be attributed to Whites. Frey observed that Phoenix and Tucson have a White image at the metropolitan level, yet have youth populations which are predominantly minorities. “...a racial generation gap within metro areas is emerging across the country” (see Figure 1 above).

**Christopher Lowenkamp and Edward Latessa, (2002), *Evaluation of Ohio’s Community Based Correctional Facilities and Halfway House Programs: Final Report***

This study examined Halfway Houses (HWH) and Community Based Correctional Facilities (CBCF) in Ohio. Their research provided strong support for the utilization of HWH and CBCF programs with moderate and high risk offenders. Most of the programs did not show a treatment effect for low risk offenders. “These data question the utility of such placements for low and low/moderate risk offenders and worse, the results tend to indicate that such placements *increase the recidivism rates of the lower risk offenders*.” Their study included 52 programs and involved both experimental and comparison groups. The average CBCF had been in operation for 10 years and had a capacity of 114 offenders. The typical CBCF provided services for both males and females and offered substance abuse, education and employment programming. Fully 79% of the offenders placed in the CBCF programs successfully completed their programming. On average the HWHs had been in operation for 19 years, and had a capacity of 54. Few HWHs housed males and females, however, almost all offered substance abuse and employment programming. Two-thirds offered education and financial management classes, while approximately half offered cognitive based groups. The HWH programs had a 64% successful termination rate.

### JUVENILE JUSTICE TRIVIA ANSWER

Fully one-third (32%) of the 139 male and 27 females committed during the last quarter of 2005 said they wanted to achieve a college education.

Please let us know how we’re doing, and fill out a customer service survey at:

<http://intranet.adjc.az.gov/SupportServices/R&D/Surveys/CustomServiceSurvey.asp>